

TRIBUTE TO ROSS A. MURPHEY

• Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I honor Ross A. Murphey, a great patriot and first Sergeant in the South Dakota National Guard. Ross was the longest serving enlisted personnel in the history of the South Dakota National Guard.

Ross Murphey began his outstanding service in the South Dakota National Guard on March 13, 1966. As a senior in high school, Ross served in Headquarters and Headquarters Company in the 109th Battalion. Ross remained with the 109th until January 4, 1968, when the 842nd Engineer Company was formed in Northern Black Hills Region. He spent the next 37 years with the 842nd and eventually was transferred to Camp Rapid in Rapid City, SD. He served with Camp Rapid from September 14, 2005, until his retirement on August 13, 2008. Ross' leadership and commitment to the National Guard have been recognized numerous times, including meritorious service medals, state awards and the Bronze DeFleury award.

With hard work and dedication, Ross obtained a senior grade rank of First Sergeant. He served multiple times with the 842nd, including time served in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom at Baghdad International Airport.

Ross' devoted service to country and longevity are an inspiration to us all. Ross Murphey served the South Dakota National Guard with commitment and honor. I commend him for his 42 years of service to South Dakota and to our country.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:30 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6894. An act to extend and reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6965. An act to extend the authorization of the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5834) to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and for other purposes.

At 3:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 642. An act to establish the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones Fire Suppression Demonstration Incentive Program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing and dormitories, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5244. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5352. An act to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection, to establish programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5443. An act to improve defense cooperation between the Republic of Korea and the United States.

H.R. 6646. An act to require the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to provide detailed briefings to Congress on any recent discussions conducted between United States Government and the Government of Taiwan and any potential transfer of defense articles or defense services to the Government of Taiwan.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1760. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Healthy Start Initiative.

S. 3241. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the "Cecce Ross Lyles Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 3001. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 371. Concurrent resolution strongly supporting an immediate and just restitution of, or compensation for, property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Communist regimes.

H. Con. Res. 374. Concurrent resolution supporting Christian, Jewish, and Muslim interfaith dialogue that promotes peace, understanding, unity, and religious freedom.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

At 5:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions:

S. 171. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Commerce Street in Commerce, Oklahoma, as the "Mickey Mantle Post Office Building".

S. 2135. An act to prohibit the recruitment or use of child soldiers, to designate persons who recruit or use child soldiers as inadmissible aliens, to allow the deportation of persons who recruit or use child soldiers, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 35. Joint resolution to amend Public Law 108-331 to provide for the con-

struction and related activities in support of the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project in Arizona.

S.J. Res. 45. Joint resolution expressing the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin.

H.R. 3986. An act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6889. An act to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6893. An act to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to connect and support relative caregivers, improve outcomes for children in foster care, provide for tribal foster care and adoption access, improve incentives for adoption, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills and joint resolutions were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 7:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7005. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide alternative minimum tax relief for individuals for 2008.

H.R. 7006. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide disaster assistance relief.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7801. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-400, -400D, and -400F Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-28386)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7802. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Mystere-Falcon 50 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0118)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7803. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-200F, 747-300, 747-400, and 747-400D Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-0045)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7804. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, -200C, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket